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5TH AVENUE THEATRE-S-" Skipped by the Light of the 14TH STREET THEATRE-S-"The Pavements of Peris."

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

NEW-YORK, MONDAY, APRIL 14. THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN, - A dispatch from Sontay states that the French will enter Hong-Hoa to-morrow. A proposal for a general strike of French miners was rejected at a meeting in Paris yesterday. - Comnunication with Berber has been cut off. = = The death of Henry James Byron, the dramatist, is an-

nounced. ___ Callender's Minstrels were well received at the Holborn Theatre in London on Satur day night. DOMESTIC.-Democratic leaders in Congress are

policy; the friends of appropriations for public buildings are stubborn and the Morrison bill is a source of much uneasiness. ==== The Whig Republicans of Georgia are to send a contesting delegation to the Republican National Convention. The prospects are good for a Blaine delegation from Maryland. At the Lancaster County, Penn sylvania, Republican primary election. Major Hiestand was nominated for Congress over A. Herr Smith. ____ Albert Weed, a business man of Baltimore, has fled to escape arrest on the charge of bigamy. - The bill repealing the local option feature of the Ohio Scott law has become a law. ___ Fall River spinners will maintain their strike, ——— A new air-line railroad from Atlanta to Baltimore, and a new road from Shelby, N. C., to Spartanburg, S. C., are projected. ____ The Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott delivered the opening sermon of the spring term at Cornell University yesterday. === Leaders of

in a state of perplexity respecting a profitable

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-Large congregations filled the churches at the Easter celebrations yesterday. Mabee and English began a series of meetings in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, - C. F. Haller, of Providence, jumped from the Narragansett and was drowned. === Felix Adler discussed the homes of the well-to-do class. Over thirty ball-players were arrested in Jersey

the workingmen at Pittsburg say that they do not

wish a reduction in the tariff. - In a fight be-

tween citizens and escaped prisoners in Arkansas

THE WEATHER-TRIBUNE local observations in dicate clear or fair and warmer weather, followed by increasing cloudiness and chances of rain. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 63°; lowest, 41° everage, 50%.

An exhibition which New-Yorkers now look forward to with pleasure every spring is the Bench Show of the Westminster Kennel Club, This year it will be given in May in the Madison Square Garden, and already there is promise that it will surpass anything of its kind ever seen in this country. Several large cities, East and West, have held dog shows this spring, and the winners in each class, will be sent to the New-York exhibition.

The weather made partial reparation yesterday for its vagaries during the last three or four months. It was a perfect Easter Sunday, and Fifth-ave, was thronged with promenaders all day. For once in the year at least more people wanted to go to church than could possibly get in. The music was fine and the display of flowers was remarkably beautiful. The decorations and a description of the services in some of our best known churches are noted elsewhere in THE TRIBUNE.

The Fire Marshal may find a hint worth taking in the statements made yesterday at one of the numerous workingmen's meetings in this city. It was asserted that the fire in the St. George's Flats was in part due to the fact that the engineer who had charge of the stationary engine which supplied elevator power and heat throughout the house had too many duties to perform; that he was a man-of-all-work and

had to neglect his fires; and that this is the case in most large apartment houses in New-York. No evidence in support of these statements was given; but if what these men say is true, here is a serious matter. In "fire-proof flats" which are not fireproof it is of especial importance that the engine fires in the basement shall have somebody's undivided attention.

The market for rents is not in a condition to give unalloyed gratification to all landlords, First-class offices and business places command their prices; but anything less than firstclass is not so easily rented at high figures. Expensive houses and apartments are not in eager demand, while there there is constant inquiry for medium and low-priced dwellings and flats. Of these the supply seems large and increasing. This feature of the market is a cause for satisfaction. It is a good thing for any city to be able to furnish people of mod erate means with comfortable homes. The larger this class is in any community the better the municipal government is apt to be, for the citizens who compose it generally show a more active interest in public affairs than the very rich or the very poor.

Unless Mr. Morrison has changed his mind since Saturday he will call up the Tariff bill in the House to-morrow; but the probabilities are that the measure will not be considered long. Mr. Randall will oppose it, and he has fifty Democrats who will help him. It is to be hoped he will succeed and that the matter will be disposed of then and there. If he needs any help outside his own party the Republicans. ought to give it promptly. A family quarrel among the Democrats over the bill would be amusing perhaps; but the business interests of the country would be further disturbed by even a short debate on the tariff, and the responsibility for this is something the Republican party does not want to bear. The Republican Representatives, therefore, should oppose the Morrison bill at every step.

The Democrats will hardly be able to make their cry of "Economy and Reform" particularly effective in the approaching National canvass. Mr. Randall tried to add to its force by cutting down the appropriations for the postal service and he may do more in this line in some of his other appropriation bills; but at present it looks as if his efforts would be wasted. The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds now has a grip on the House, which its members evidently do not mean to loosen until their fifty favorite measures, appropriating about eight millions for public buildings in various parts of the Union, have been considered. Moreover, the pension bills already passed, and the River and Harbor jobs yet to be brought forward, do not savor much of economy. The pension bills if they should finally become laws would take from eighty to one-hundred millions from the Treasury, and the repairs and improvements on creeks and small rivers, it is said, will call for twelve millions nore. It is not likely that the Senate will approve all this proposed expenditure; but the Democrats will certainly get the discredit they deserve for having proposed it.

TOO MUCH MONEY.

A few days ago, prices of nearly all products were unusually low. Excessive production, and accumulation of supplies in excess of the demand, were the causes commonly given. But a sharp reaction upward quickly followed. Prices mounted for a few days as quickly as they had plunged. Nobody pretended that the relations of supply and demand had changed; in the ordinary phrase it was simply a natural speculative reaction.

It would be unphilosophic to accept such changes as a matter of course, without seeking any cause. Ordinarily, when a period of especial depression in prices comes, it lasts until the markets have cleared themselves; until the normal relations between demand and supply have been established. In this case it is necessary to look for causes which operate without regard to the relations of supply and demand-for causes which stimulate excessive production, which favor unnatural accumulation of products, and which kindle speculation before the markets have time to recover a natural condition and tone.

It need hardly be said that the tariff, to which some attribute these phenomena, entirely fails to explain them. If it might possibly promote over production of iron or of woollen goods, no. oody in his senses imagines that it could cause unnatural accumulation of cotton or wheat or oil, or excessive issues of stocks and bonds, or an irrepressible tendency to speculation in grain

We reached very low prices in 1878, just before the resumption of specie payments. At that time there were in use by the people, not in banks or in the Treasury, about \$486,500,000 of paper money, and 5,000,000 standard silver dollars. The gold then in the country was held as merchandise, and, except in a small part of the country, did not circulate as money. We now have in actual circulation, not held by the Treasury or the banks, according to Controller Knox's report of last November, over \$916,000,000, and at this time considerably more. The gold has gone into circulation, and one of the latter was killed and several were has been greatly increased, the silver dollars and certificates have been forced into circulation; and, in short, we have not far from two dollars in actual use among the people where we had one dollar in October, 1878.

The low prices of 1878 lasted until the markets had been relieved by distribution. Then a steady and sure improvement in all directions began, which was presently changed to the wild excitement of progress by leaps and bounds, when gold came into general use, and gold, silver and certificates began to flood the country. Over production was a natural result, because prices were inflated. Wild speculation was a natural result, because there was a vast surplus of money with which to carry products and securities. Excessive issue of securities and unnatural accumulation of products were natural results, because, whatever the state of the markets for the moment, the plethora of currency encouraged everybody to hope for another speculative " boom " very soon.

The speculative excitement has had its usual effect. After a long debauch, headache. The public is sick; the speculators themselves thave been sick. But every violent decline in prices only invites to a violent advance, because the superabundance of money makes speculation easy. The markets have not time to free themselves before a new rush of prices begins.

From this unnatural state of things there is one way of escape; we can get rid of part of our floating capital called money. We are getting rid of part. But, as Congress refuses to lessen the paper part or the silver part, we are sending gold to Europe.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S SHIPPING BILL. It appears that the British ship-owners refuse to accept any compromise, but insist on the withdrawal of Mr. Chamberlain's Shipping bill. This he will not consent to, and if the bill is not crowded out its passage is probable. The opposition of the ship-owners to this measure is not altogether creditable to them. The purpose of the bill is to diminish the number of preventable wrecks by providing that no sum in excess

of the actual value of a lost vessel shall be recoverable by insurance. That there is need for legislation on this head has recently been shown by the publication of the statistics of wrecks, which prove that numbers of these disasters have occurred within the past year, in which neglect or fraud, encouraged by over-insurance, was clearly traceable. All experience, in fact, demonstrates that so long as men can overinsure their ships many will be unprincipled enough to send unseaworthy vessels to sea, while not a few will sail as close to the penal law as they dare, in deliberately preparing the destruction of their vessels after over-insuring them. The temptation presented by insurance facilities often proves too great for landsmen, and knowing the magnitude of the risk of detection they still resort to arson. But how much greater must the temptation be in the case of the ship-owner, whose property can be cast away far beyond the prying inquisition of the marine adjuster, and who, if he uses ordipary care, need encounter no risks whatever. With an old and leaky ship, indeed, nothing more is needed than to send her to sea, and then the chances of the weather may generally be relied on to dispose of her.

It is to prevent this kind of fraud that the Shipping bill was drawn, and it is difficult to understand the grounds upon which the British ship-owners as a body oppose so salutary and much-needed a measure. Their position, indeed, is open to sharp suspicion, for it renders them liable to the charge of desiring to maintain conditions favorable to the notoriously mischievous system of over-insurance. The situation is the graver inasmuch as this practice often includes what can only be termed constructive murder. For the ship-owner who knowingly puts a crew aboard an unseaworthy vessel, and sends her to sea hoping she may founder, and fully prepared for her foundering, must be held at least morally responsible for the deaths of his employes in the event of dis-

It is this consideration which insures the adhesion of the British public to Mr. Chamberlain in his controversy with the ship-owners. The latter are regarded as selfish and greedy traders, who refuse to relinquish an immoral and dishonest practice because it is profitable, and who are so utterly regardless of the lives of seamen that they resent a measure one object of which is the protection of that gallant but helpless class. There can be no doubt that Mr. Chamberlain has the best of the situation, and when the bill is voted upon there can be hardly any question as to its triumphant passage.

SMOKING FOR CORNS.

The old adage says that a poor excuse is better than none, but obviously an excuse can be so glaringly poor as to serve no other end than to prove that the offence of which it fain would at a boarding school once were hauled up for smoking, the use of tobacco in any form being strictly prohibited, and punishable by expulsion. The principal, stern of visage and of voice, demanded of each in turn what explanation if any he had to offer for breaking the law of the institution in a vital particular. One replied that he smoked for his nerves; another that he had been told that an occasional pipe helped digestion; a third that he was inclined to corpulency, and puffed at a cigar, not because he liked it, far from it, but with a view to discourage flesh; a fourth that his doctor was of the opinion that tobacco was good for the liver, and so on. By the time the last culprit's turn came the regulation stock of excuses was entirely exhausted; and since it was against the policy of the scholars for any two of them to adopt the same mitigating circumstance, he was at a loss for a moment what to say. Then, gathering himself together for a desperate effort, he looked the old pedagogue in the eye and boldly remarked: "I smoke, sir, for my corns-I have a bad bunion on my left foot." As he left school the next morning in disgrace, aching from the sound trouncing he had reseived and with a note in his pocket to his father which entitled him to be soundly retrounced when he got home, it occurred to him that an excuse might be too poor.

It is impossible to contemplate the Democratic party at this time without recalling this boy in all that he implies. The Democracy has east Civil Service reform beneath its feet. It is hopelessly divided on the tariff. What, then, is it going into the campaign of 1884 for? What is its animating purpose? What great been losing heavily in specie, while the paper purpose unites and inspires its membership? In short, what is its excuse for being? Democracy answers that it smokes for its corn; that it has a bad bunion on its left foot. True, it | April 1: does not frame its excuse in just those words, but what it has to offer comes to that. It wants the country to understand that it is going into this fight, not for the Tariff, nor Civil Service reform, nor the currency, but to "vindicate" the old ticket! Under the direction of Mr. Randall, the Democrats of Pennsylvania last week announced that they were smoking for their assertion in the following able and impressive

We believe that the Electoral fraud of 1876-77, by which muc! J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks were cheated out of the offices of President and Vice-President, to which they were fairly elected, was the most deadly blow ever aimed at our system of representative government and the duty of driving from power the men and the party who made that fraud triumphant is the most sacred olligation ever imposed upon the consciences of

There is nothing to indicate that this resolution was placed in the platform of the Pennsylvania Democratic State Convention as a joke. In no report of the proceedings of the Convention that we have seen are the words " great and long-continued laughter" appended to the resolution in brackets. Shall we conclude, then, that the finding of the Electoral Commission-s commission which the Democratic party helped to create-is in the opinion of the Democrats "the most deadly blow ever aimed at our system of representative government"? By no means. Democracy believes nothing of the kind, or Tilden and Hendricks would have been renominated four years ago. The fact that they were not renominated proves that the present frequent bursts of Democratic feeling are simply so many false pretences. It is clearly not in human nature that our Democratic friends should feel worse about Tilden and Hendricks in 1884 than they did in 1880. In 1880 they found not the slightest difficulty in setting the old ticket aside. Indeed, not a few of them jeered at it, and spit upon it. But now they are going about with handkerchiefs to their eyes and crape on their left arms, sobbing that they cannot sleep nights for thinking of "the most deadly blow ever aimed at our system of representative government," And on that issue of stale wrath, warmed-over indignation and moth-eaten "sacred obligation" they purpose to go before the country. To note this droll fact is to emphasize the

is reduced. It has gone into involuntary bankruptcy. It has lost whatever distinctive prinat present except the cowardice of its lack of

grievance. It lags superfluous. It is smoking for its corns.

FENCING IN NEBRASKA. Several months ago THE TRIBUNE called atention to the irregularities which were being practised in Nebraska, in relation to the unlawful holding of public lands. Secretary Teller has now sent to the House a special report upon this question, and the United States surveyor who makes it represents the case as being a very aggravated one. He says that the whole of Northwestern Nebraska is occupied by cattle men, who have inclosed hundreds of miles of the best land with wire fences, including water-courses, and that they deliberately prevent settlement, not only by threats, but by a systematic "freezing-out" plan applied to all poor settlers. No poor man can in fact hold any land in that region, and if such a one attempts to start in the cattle business for himself in a small way, he will speedily be crushed, The surveyor says further that there has been and is wholesale destruction of valuable timber on the Government land of this whole region, and that apparently no interterence with the timber thieves has been attempted. The truth is that a number of wealthy cattle-

raisers are "running" Northwestern Nebraska, and keeping everybody else out of the country. Most of them have in their employ a score or two of dare-devil cowboys, who will carry out any high-handed act they are set to perform. If it is necessary to "freeze out" a small cattleraiser, they will employ force, or they will fence in all the neighboring water-courses, so that he cannot water his stock. Or they will coolly build fence right round him and his stock, and keep them there until he submits. Then they usually take his cattle at a valuation, and he leaves the country. The so-called "big" cattle men are also organized, and support one enother and make common cause against outsiders. They view with unconcealed dislike all Government or local officers having to do with surgical inspection of the stock, and sometimes make things very unpleasant for such persons. They have no mercy upon intending settlers, and lose no time in shouldering them out. Their money gives them a great deal of influence, and they appear to be growing bolder all the time.

As a matter of fact, the public lands in this region are no longer open to homestead and pre-emption entry. Poor men are not allowed o make homes for themselves there. Enormous areas are seized, fenced, and held by force, without any legal claim, or else bogus claims are established, often by making the cowboys file claims in their own names, the land being of course possessed and used by their employers. It is not that the land laws have proved inefficacious, but that the remoteness and sparse population of the region have enabled a few unscrupulous men to defy the dispose is without a palliative. A dozen boys laws. But if this part of Nebraska is ever to be settled, and if all the timber is not to be destroyed, it is evident that Congress must take ome action to vindicate the laws and to prevent the cattle men and their cowboys from maintaining a wilderness where there ought to be flourishing settlements.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

The egregious blunder made in the bank statement of the 5th instant, when disclosed on Saturday, put a new face on the statements for the past two weeks. It appears that the Park Bank put in its specie as legal tender, and its legal tender as specie, and the Clearing House people in some inconceivable way never noticed a discrepancy so remarkable, though that return and those preceding contrasted thus:

Evidently the last two statements, with their increase or decrease compared with those of the previous week, should have read as follows: April 5. Differences. April 12. Differences.
Loans. \$437.600,500 In \$1,306.80 0 \$34.4, 1,000 In \$520.500 Deposits \$44,960,300 In. 27-0,500 344,352,300 In. 383,000 Expects 65,300,300 De. 1,87,300 61894,200 De. 1,45,100 L. Tenders 24,886.90 De. 2,51,100 25,840,300 In. 953,400

The amount of reserve, and the ratio of reserve to liabilities, were of course not affected by the error in the statements, and the record needs no change as to those items, or as to loans and deposits. But for the correction as to kind of money held, however, the bank statements would be entirely irreconcilable with the reports of Treasury balances, which show that the Treasury has money in circulation has largely increased. The following are the changes in Treasury balances since Saturday, April 5, and since

In gold held, dec.....\$3,76 In gold owned, dec...... 8 Dec. \$3,865,441 Dec. 1,054,451 306,450 In gold certificates, dec. 2,896,640 In silver certificates, inc. 296,220 for L. t. certificates, dec. 165,000 In l. t. outstanding, inc. 1,969,791

During the last week the Treasury has paid out \$871,677 more gold than its receipts in corns and bunions this year. They clothed the gold and gold certificates, and during the month thus far \$1,054,451. But for the shipments to Europe, therefore, the banks should have gained. But the exports for the week amounted to \$5,184,634, nearly ail gold, making nearly \$22,000,000 gold and \$4,300,000 silver this year, against only \$90,250 gold and \$4,696,867 silver to the corresponding date last year. Nor is there any reason why this outgo of gold should cease, while the Treasury continues to put out more silver dollars and paper every week.

The feature of the markets last week was a strong speculative advance in several important products. Wheat touched the lowest price for many years on Monday, selling at 96 cash for No. 2 Red Winter here, and 98 for May. The recovery to \$1 01 for April and \$1 0234 for May was so sharp that little confidence was felt in the market, and at the first sign of a change of aim by the speculaters the price dropped again, though the close on Saturday was about 2 cents above the close of the previous week. Corn did not reach its lowest price until Tuesday, when it closed at 54% for April and 565s for May; it sympathized with wheat in the advance until Thursday, and also in the subsequent reaction, selling at 5634 for May on Saturday at 2 p. m. Oats followed substantially the same course. Pork sold at \$16 25 on the 8th for spot mess, rose with a rush about \$1 per barrel, and closed about \$16 75. Lard closed at 8.40 on the 8th for city spot, rose to 8.90 on the 10th, and dropped fo 8.80 on Saturday, the options fluctuating still more widely. In all this movement of grain and provisions there was nothing to be seen, except the unreasoning disposition of speculators to follow a few strong operators. There is no important enlargement of the foreign demand as yet, and the prospect as to this year's crops is favorable.

The cotton market acted with quite as little regard to facts. Exports were cut down to 51.600 bales last week, against 99,480 for the pitiful condition to which the Democratic party | corresponding week last year; the weather at the South was generally favorable; and the state of the market for goods brought into ciples it once professed, and possesses little else | prominence the fact that the cotton which sold Saturday at 1178 for spot, and at 1014 one year convictions, an appetite abnormally developed ago, when made into standard brown sheetings, by a quarter of a century of fasting and a is still selling at 714 cents, against 8 cents a

year ago. Nevertheless the speculators went the British Agricultural Commission some year at the market as if it were the easiest thing in the world to cause a larger consumption of cotton by charging more for it, and the price advanced nearly half a cent during the week. After its drop to about 90 cents, crude oil again advanced last week, and in this market, as in so many others, there was no change of events to cause the change in price; it closed at 9512

The stock market did not keep pace with these speculations in products. The delay in settling trunk-line controversies, the reaction in grain before low prices had time to induce larger exports, and the rapid outgo of gold without prospect of any wise action by Congress, all have tended to check investments. Besides, nearly all active securities have been bom barded with unfavorable reports. The current report that Mr. Vanderbilt approves and insists upon the adoption of what is called the Pennsylvania plan of adjustment does not seem to render its acceptance by other managers more easy. The plan is a bold one; it has been called a yirtual consolidation of railroads into one company and under one management as respects their competitive traffic. But somebody has to manage, and it is an open question whether the controlling influence of one or two of the stronger companies will not be so distrusted by other roads as to prevent agreement on that basis. But on some basis the roads must agree, or their securities will seek in the lowest depths a deeper still.

ON ALTERING STANDARD PLAYS. With reference to Mr. Bancroft's revival of Sheridan's comedy of "The Rivals," at the London Haymarket Theatre, much solicitude has been expressed, by various newspaper writers in that capital, lest there should be any tamporing with the text of that sacred production. Mr. Bancroft soothes this anxiety by stating that no word of the text will be changed, and that he has only ventured to make a few transpositions, in order to obviate the necessity for a dozen changes of scene. When Mr. Jefferson adapted this comedy, a few seasons since, and brought it forward here, for a long and cessful run, a similar apprehension, not to say holy horror, was expressed as to the liberties he had taken with the sacred text of Sheridan. Mr. Jefferson's version, however, was found to be free from several tedious elements of the originalfallland and Julia, for example, who are "sticks," unless played by first-class actors. Mr. Bancroft we ob erve, plays Falkland; but, on the American stage it would be very difficult to find an actor of Mr. Bancroft's ability and rank who would be willing to act this part.

Those parts of plays which are not absolutely essential may well be spared, unless they can be done perfectly well. The last of the four great soliloquies of "Hamlet" is invariably omitted; and no one of Shakespeare's plays is ever acted, ought to be acted, exactly, as it stands-because there are lines that cannot b spoken, and because the necessity of certain other lines is obviated by the resources of modern stage scenery. As to "The Rivals," the author himself would, probably, have been the first to approve of any changes that might improve its effect. Sheridan, as we know on the authority of his friend Lady Cork, (quoted by Moore), "always said that 'The Rivals' was one of the worst plays in the language, and he would give anything if he had not written it."

It is stated that the British postoffice authorities find gambling to be as fertile a source of crime as drunkenness among the employes. The latter often steal in order to pay gambling debts and bets. The curious moral perversion which regards these obligations as "debts of honor" is no doubt responsible for the consequences. Probably few of these men would steal to pay their butcher and baker, but rather than be thought capable of evading a "debt of honor" they will resort to robbery. The truth is that the so-called "debt of honor" is a relie of barbarism only fit to be bracketed with the duello.

"What lends additional force to his (Senator Bayard's) remarks is the fact that during the whole of his career no single act has reflected upon his honesty, and that is why he is a good Democrat." This observation is made by Tie Utica Observer. The necessary connection which it insists upon between Democracy and true goodness is not generally appreciated. The Obsever of course came to the knowledge of the interesting fact by a superb evolution of its enterprising inner consciousness.

Stephen Dunn, who has been kept in a Canadian iail two years without trial, only to be discharged for want of evidence at last, appears to have just cause of complaint against the Dominion Government. There is no excuse or apology for such an incarceration. It is in effect a denial of justice, and it does seem that strong representations made from Washington would have been warranted under the circumstances, and would probably have led to the trial of Dunn long ago.

NOTES ABOUT INDUSTRY AND TRADE. WEST VIRGINIA COKE AND COAL-Stagnation in

the iron business during the past year has had only this effect, apparently, upon the New-River coke producing region, that further development was for a time arrested. But about 500 coke ovens are in blast, including the eighty ovens at Hawksnest, which were stopped by an accident about a year ago, but have recently been providing coke for the great Victoria furnace at Goshen. Now, with prospect of reduced production and larger cost in the Connellsville region, new developments are in progress again on the New River. At Beury, Cooper & Co's mine men are laying sixty beehive ovens; the output of coal is 4,000 tons a month, and the miners receive 45 cents a ton. At some other mines in the region 50 cents is paid. At the Gauley Mountains, also, a different coal seam has been opened, 9 feet thick, where 100 men are now employed, Improvements are in progress at Nuttall's mine, No. 1. where fifty-three coke ovens are at work. The Low Moor Iron Works are supplied from the New-River mines, and the Longdale furnaces have their own ovens, while furnaces at Irontown, Ohio, still use fuel from this region, and the use of it at various manufacturing points at the West is steadily

ANTHRACITE FREIGHTS .- The Eric Railway has cut coal rates from \$1 50 to \$1, while the Buffalo, New-York and Philadelphia refuses to go below \$1 15. The Delaware and Hudson Canal is open and the rates are 70 cents, the same as last year. but the boatmen say they cannot possibly get a decent living at that rate. The company controls over 800 boats, and has only 179,000 tons on docks at Honesdale. The Pennsylvania Canal from Nanticoke southward is open, and the Susquehanna Coal Company made a heavy shipment last week to Havre de Grace.

ONE DOLLAR RAILROADS.-There seems to be an idea in some minds that the leading railroads of the country have been capitalized upon the basis of \$1 per bushel for wheat, so that they are going to be ruined if the farmers find themselves unable to sell their wheat for \$1 per bushel. This is a renewal of the old but never particularly successful attempt to make public prosperity seem a reason for considering securities worthless. The fact that the country persists in growing with wonderful rapidity is an ancomfortable one for those who make a living out of public misfortunes, and the effort to flank that fact in some way has been often made, not often with brilliant results. If the country sees the average price of wheat fall below \$1 it will necessarily be because a vast quantity of wheat is produced. But a vast quantity of wheat will not be produced unless there is a market for it and at prices remunerative to producers. If the wheat is produced and marketed at all, the railroads will have to transport a large part of it, and if the conditions change so that the farmers cannot sell a large quantity of wheat at the current price, they will inevitably raise less until the price rises. But it would be as well not to forget that the main increase in wheat growing has been in the far-western regions, when

ago concluded the actual cost of raising wheat was about 35 cents a bushel. The railroads can better afford to transport it from these distant farms to the sea coast at 25 cents a bushel than not to transport it at all, and it will be some time before actual inability to grow wheat for \$1 per bushel at the sea coast will cause any decline in production.

THE COKE COMBINATION .- The first advance in rates by the ring was followed by a stoppage of 15 per cent of the ovens until further orders, and all the ovens were also shut down one day. The Cambria Iron Company, not liking to be dependent upon this ring, has been carefully examining mine property with a view to purchase.

PASSENGER TRAVEL HERE AND IN PRUSSIA .- The report of the Prussian railways for the year ending with April, 1883, comes pretty late-just as our own railway reports would, if we relied upon the General Government to make them. The Prussian system covers 9,000 miles, and The Railroad Gazetts in an interesting article compares its passenger traffic with that of thirteen of the oldest and most prosperous roads in this country, which operate 9.140 miles, most of them being in New-England. or trunk lines to the West. The Prussian system carried 2,197 million passengers one mile; the selected American roads 2,501 million passengers one mile. The average on the Prussian system was 33412 passengers each way daily for the whole system; the average on the American lines was 386 each way daily. It is hardly necessary to add that these roads far exceed the average for all roads in this country, which, according to the census, was only 98 passengers each way daily. But the Prussian roads, traversing an old and thickly populated country, can be properly compared only with the few most favored roads in the older States of the Union. The rates on the Prussian roads averaged a shade less for second class (2.21 cts. per mile) than the average for all passenger traffic in this country (2.33 ets. per mile). But only one-fifth of the entire passenger traffic in Prussia was first or second class; over two-fifths was third-class, and two-fifths more were made up of fourth-class passengers and soldiers. Considering the accommodations afforded passengers, it cannot be said that the Prussian rates are relatively the lower.

Professor R. R. Raymond will deliver a course of readings from Shakespeare on April 30 and May 7. at Lasell Seminary. The works selected are "The Merchant of Vanice," "Much Ado About Nothing," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Lord Randolph Churchill's great-great-greatgrandmother, Elizabeth, Duchess of Marlborough, was a niece of Robert Trever, Viscount Hampden, who was a grandson of Ruth, Lady Trevor, daugh-ter of the famous patriot John Hampden, "slain in Chalgrove field."

The late Signor Sella was not afraid to speak plainly even to his King. In 1869 he told Victor Emmanuel that a radical reform was needed in the civil list, whereupon the Kinz replied angrily: "Perhaps, then, I ought to take a tutor?" "Really," retorted Seila, unhesitatingly, "your Majesty might need one."

Dr. Dudgeon, the famous homeopathist physician of London, recalls the fact-apropos of Koch's investigations into the nature of the cholera germthat Hahnemann in 1831 suggested that the contagious matter of cholera consisted of "excessively minute invisible living creatures," and accordingly advised the free use of camphor, which he held to be a potent cholera bacilleide—to the efficacy of which treatment, adds Dr. Dudgeon, the statistics of every epidemic in Europe testify.

Bismarck one evening attended a gathering of prominent men at the house of a Russian nobleman. During all the conversation he was particularly sarcastic, cutting friends and opponents unsparingly. When he rose to take his leave, and walked down stairs, the host called a pet dog that was frisking about and led him to one side. "Are you afraid the dog will bite me!" asked Bismarck. "Oh, no," replied the host: "I'm afraid you'll bite the dog." And the Chancellor was in such a grim mood that he took this as a compliment and went away smiling.

TALKS ABOUT TOWN.

LOOKING FOR EDMUNDS AND LINCOLN. George D. Lennon, Treasurer National Protective Asso-iation.—I have been over to Washington for a month. It looks to me as though the Republicans would nominate Edmunds and Lincoln. I see Blaine and Logan and Sherman destroying each other. When Arthur finds he cannot be nominated he will throw his influence for Edmunds. His delegates will lead off with Alabama, Arkansas, and before the list is half over and the Southern votes polled for Edmunds, the stampede will take everything soldier on the ticket will induce the convention to select ome such man as Governor Fairchild, of Wisconsin, or General Gresham, of Indiana, but at present Lincoln's name is on every tongue for second place. Blaine can only be nominated on the first ballot if at all. The Democrats are studying General Butler very earnestly of late.

WHERE THE BEST BUTTER AND CHEESE ARE MADE.

George P. Dougias, president of the New-York Mercantile

Exchange.-The best dairy butter in this market comesfrom the country around Eigin, Illinois. The creameries there seem to have found the secret of first-class butter making. Next to Illinois, Iowa produces the best butter New-York outranks all other States in producing fine cheese. Ohio follows closely after and is trying to capture the laurels now worn by the Empire State. New-England produces only a small amount of butter and cheese beyond what is required for her own consumption. Vermont occasionally sends us a consignment of fine cheese, but she stands almost alone in the dairy business in that section.

TEMPERANCE WORK IN GREAT BRITAIN. Thomas H. Barker, Secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance. -- We have been busy in England during the last thirty years extending temperance work. Our plans have been modelled largely after those in the United States, and we have had valuable aid from the leading temperance men in this country such as Mr. Gough and the late Mr. Dodge. I do not suppose we have made the same pro gress you have here, but we have done a good deal. Our counties have not the privilege of selfgovernment as in the States, or we should to-day have local option in Scotland, Wales and the northern counties of England. So much we have done. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, president of the Alliance, obtained for local option a majority is the House of Commons, and Mr. Gladstone has pledged himself that a bill shall be brought into the House dealing with the whole question. Formerly the members paid no attention to us, but now many are with us. Sir Wilfrid Lawson contributes £1,000 a year to temperance work and many others contribute sums regularly from £100 to £500. The expenditure in Great Britain for intoxicating liquors has averaged during the last twelve years 136 million pounds a year; this is a decrease from the period preceeding, a reduction partly due to the work of the

A SERGEANT'S REPORT.

Captain A. S. Williams, Twenty-ninth Precinct. - I have sergeant who has as good and as quick eyes as any man on the force. I sent him with a detail of men to report to the proprietor of the Eden Musée, on Twenty-third-st., on the day of the opening of the wax-work exhibition there. He saw the gentleman sitting on a platform pointing to a part of the room, and supposing he was directing some of his workmen in the d'sposition of a part of the statuary, the sergeant waited a moment before interrupting the old gentleman. Then he grew impatient and said to him. Where do you want these men stationed !" The mas was so preoccupied that he did not answer the sergeant, who then repeated his question. Still getting no reply he took hold of the outstretched arm before him and said: "What's the matter with you!" Then the grimaces of his squad and of the workmen in the building told him that he was reporting to a wax figure. The joke was too good to keep, and the sergeant reported his blunder to

WORK AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

The Rev. G. D. Pike, secretary of the Home Missio Association.—One of the facts that presses itself most persistently upon our attention in the work among the freedmen of the South is the rapid increase of the colored population. There is an average increase of 500 a day in the United States, or nearly 200,000 a year. Of course our efforts are chiefly educational. The most urgent need of these unlettered colored people in the old slave states is intelligent young preachers to take the place of the devout but ignorant and superstitious old colored preachers of the past, most of whom cannot read a word of the Bible and who preach the most extraordinary disand doctrines from still more extraordinary texts. The mass of the colored people want the younger educated ministers if they can get them and can get rid of the old ones. I recently asked a deacon of a church in Alabama